Unused Door Pried To Get FBI Files

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On the night of March 8, a never-used door in the Media, Pa., office of the FBI was forced open, pushing aside a file cabinet that normally blocked the door.

Records described as having been stolen in the raid of the office have provided a rare glimpse into the operations of the nation's investigative arm headed by J. Edgar Hoover.

Pennsylvania police said yesterday they have no clues as to who conducted the raid and that an investigation by local police and the FBI continues.

Media, Pa., Police Chief Thomas J. Bruton refused to estimate how many records had been stolen from the locked files. Justice Department spokesmen, however, indicated that considerably more than the 14 documents received Tuesday by The Washington Post were stolen in the raid.

Damage at the site, said Bruton, was minimal. "Some drawers were pulled out and ransacked, that's all, he said.

The branch office of the FBI is located in the second floor of a private office building at Front Street and South Avenue in Media, the county seat of Delaware County.

Selective Service offices, the more frequent target of recent raids, are in the same building but are believed to have not been entered by the raiders.

On the same day the FBI was calling in the Media police, a group named the Citizens Commission to Investigate the FBI mailed an announcement saying they had raided the files "because we believe that the FBI has betrayed its democratic trust and we wish to present evidence for this claim to the open and public judgment of our fellow citizens."

Muhammad Kenyatta, who is mentioned prominently in three of the documents received by The Washington Post, said he received the documents that involved himself before they were made public.

Kenyatta, who heads the Black Economic Development Conference in Philadelphia, refused at a press conference yesterday in Philadelphia say how he came into possession of the documents.

"Let it suffice to say that revolutionary information networks are growing all across America," said Kenyatta. "Both sides can play the 'Spy' game."

He distributed to reporters a page from one of the documents that pertain to his organization and copies of the original raid announcement mailed by the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI.

In a telephone interview, Kenyatta said, "If Hoover is trying to convince us there's an FBI agent in every mailbox we'll try to convince them there's a spook behind every door."

The 27-year-old black activist was referring to a stolen document that encouraged agents to step up interviews with dissenters "for plenty of reasons, chief of which are it will enhance the paranoia endemic in these circles and will further serve to get the point across there is an FBI agent behind every mailbox . . ."

A Rochester, N.Y., FBI office was ransacked Sept. 6. Eight antiwar activists, five of them from Philadelphia, are now serving 12- to 18-month prison terms after being convicted for that raid, which included ransacking offices of the Selective Service, the FBI and the U.S. attorney.

No FBI records were believed to have been stolen in that raid.

Associated Press

Muhammad Kenyatta, head of the Black Economic Development Conference in Philadelphia, displays copies of FBI records stolen from offices in Media, Pa.